

280

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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Kaesong Branch of the Ministry of Social Security

1. In early 1953, the Kaesong Detachment of the Ministry of Social Security¹ (MSS) had about 40 rooms as offices in two houses, one a Korean type and the other a western type, on the main street which leads to Manwol-tae (3341/2588/5270), approximately 300 yards from the Namsong (0589/2502) Hospital, and approximately 200 yards from the Sonil (7639/0001) Industrial Company. A guard was always stationed at the gate.

Kaesong Branch of the Ministry of Internal Affairs

2. There was a signboard indicating that the Kaesong Detachment of the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA) had offices in the former official residence of the chief of ROK Kaesong Police Station Such'ang-dong, Kaesong. All of the windows of this building had been bricked up to within one foot of the top, allowing for light and ventilation. A large iron drum was in front of the gate, which was beaten loudly in case of an air alert.
3. The Kaesong Detachment of the MIA comprised the following sections:
 - a. Chief
 - b. Deputy Chief:
 - (1) Inspection Section: Chief, in charge of five sub-sections.
 - (2) Registration Section.

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25X1A

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- 2 -

- (3) State Security Section.
 - (4) Fire Service Section.
 - (5) Traffic Control Section.
4. Police boxes, or sub-stations, of the Kaesŏng Detachment, MIA, were at the following points in Kaesŏng.
- a. Naman-dong Sub-Station.
 - b. Yongsan-dong Sub-Station at Yugumul-kol consisted of a chief, a staff member in charge of the State Security, other staff members, and members of the Self-Defense Guard.
 - c. Pusan-dong and Chanan-dong Sub-Station at the former Namdaemun Police Box, ROK Kaesŏng Police Station.
 - d. Koryŏ-dong Sub-Station in the vicinity of the Tongdaemun Church.
 - e. Manwŏl-tong Sub-Station in the vicinity of the Sŏnil Industrial Company.
 - f. Tonghung-dong and Sŏnjuk-tong Sub-Station at a store, near the Songyang Sŏwon (5473/7122/2579/7108).
 - g. Unak-tong Sub-Station.
 - h. Kwanhun-dong and Tonghyŏn-dong Sub-Station at the residence of HAN Ch'ang-kyun (7281/2490/0971).
 - i. Togam-dong Sub-Station.
 - j. Sonha-dong Sub-Station.
 - k. Sŏhung-dong and Such'ang-dong Sub-Station in the vicinity of the Haengsan (2622/1472) Hospital.
 - l. T'aep'yong-dong and Sajik-tong Sub-Station in the vicinity of the Kaesŏng Railroad Station.
5. The Self-Defense Guard (SDG) was organized in every section of the city of Kaesŏng under the leadership and supervision of the MIA Detachment. According to North Korean law, every citizen of North Korea between the ages of 18 and 30, regardless of sex, had to join the SDG. Basic military training was given to SDG members. While on duty, SDG members wore arm bands so marked.
6. The SDG with the CCF Military Police and the MIA staff members guarded every MIA sub-station at night. SDG guards were not armed. MIA staff members of higher rank than lieutenant carried weapons at all times.
7. Joint teams composed of CCF Military Police and a MIA staff member patrolled Kaesŏng at all times. It had become a monthly routine for the North Korean Military Police, the CCF Military Police, the MIA, and the SDG to jointly search each residence in Kaesŏng for possible offenders of North Korean regulations.
8. Visitors to any area had to register with the MIA. Any person found violating this regulation was fined 300 won and the owner of the house in which the visitor was found was fined 500 won.

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25X1A

Kaesong Commercial Firms Engaged in Trade with South Korea

9. [REDACTED] commercial firms² engaged in trade between Kaesong and Kanghwa Island were:
- a. Kaesong Branch of the Chohung Kongsae: Had seven office rooms in a private residence at Naman-dong, Kaesong. It was the largest trading company in Kaesong conducting business with South Korea. About one-third of this trade was handled through independent merchants on a commission basis. The branch was established in April 1952. There were eight employees at the Kaesong Branch. The President was SON (fnu), aged 47, a native of Wonsan, South Hamgyong Province. The branch manager was KIM Tong-uk (6855/2639/2485), aged 50, a native of Kaesong.³
 - b. The Sinsin Kongsae (2450/2450/0361/4357):⁴ Established in October 1952, had three office rooms in the Togyo (6757/2890) Market near the Kaesong Railroad Station. The president was HONG Sun-o⁴ (3163/8642/0063), aged 53, a native of Kaesong. Other members of the firm were KIM Su-rin, aged 45, a native of Kaesong; and HONG Sun-kon (3163/8642/0256), aged 45, brother of HONG Sun-o.
 - c. The Choson Chungang Sangsae (2600/7639/0022/1135/0794/0674): Established in the summer of 1952 at Naman-dong, Kaesong. The president was CHO Yong-hwan (2580/7893/3562), aged 60, a native of Kaesong. Investors were PAK Ki-ch'ol, aged 30, and U Sang-chom, aged 32. PAK and U each owned separate cloth shops in the Togyo Market. Together PAK and U invested 15,000,000 South Korean won in the Choson Chungang, which they lost.
 - d. The P'yonghwa Sangsae (1627/0735/0794/4357)⁵ formerly the Tongil Sangsae (2639/0001/0794/4357): Established in the winter of 1951 at Naman-dong, Kaesong. This company had 10 employees. Its president was KIM Chae-chun, aged 45, a native of Seoul who took over the Tongil Sangsae from its former owner, TONG (fnu), and renamed it.
 - e. The Choson Myyok Sangsae (2600/7639/ ? / ? /0794/4357): Established in the fall of 1952 and closed in January 1953, soon after the leaflet case. Partners in the Company were KIM (fnu), president, aged 48; KIM Hak-myong (6855/1331/2494), aged 43, a native of Kaesong; KIM Myong-han⁶ (6855/2494/3352), aged 43, a native of Kaesong.
 - f. The Koryo Yanghaeng (7559/7787/3152/5887): Established in the spring of 1952 at Chanam-dong, Kaesong, but appears to have been inactive since March 1953. The president was SON Ch'ang-sik⁷ (1327/2490/2784), aged 38, a native of Kaesong. HWANG Ki-chong (7806/1015/2973), aged 45, a native of Kaesong was a partner. There were five other employees of the company.
 - g. The Chongdae Kongsae (2973/1129/0361/0674): Established in the winter of 1952 at Tonghung-dong, Kaesong. The signboard was taken down in March 1953.⁸ President of the company was CHANG Chi-su, aged 50, a native of P'yongyang.
 - h. The Samhwa Kongsae (0005/0735/0361/0674): Established in February 1953 at Togyo Market, Kaesong.
 - i. The Tongbang Sangsae (2639/2455/0794/4357): Established in the winter of 1952 at Pusan-dong, Kaesong, but closed a few weeks later.
 - j. The Samo Kongsae (0005/0063/0361/0674): Established in the winter of 1952 at Kusan-dong, Kaesong.
 - k. The Sinhung Sangsae (2450/5281/0794/0057): At Pusan-dong, Kaesong. SONG Chae-hyon, aged 50, a native of Kaesong, was a representative of this company.

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- 4 -

10. The following were independent merchants engaged in trade between Kaesŏng and South Korea:
 - a. YI Yŏng-sin (2621/3057/2450), aged 50, who lived at Chānam-dong, Kaesŏng.
 - b. CH'OE Kuk-yong (1508/0948/ ?), aged 60, who lived at Tŏgyo Market, near Kaesŏng Railroad Station, Kaesŏng.
 - c. KO Ki-ch'an (7559/ ? / ?), aged 38, who lived at Chānam-dong, Kaesŏng.
 - d. YI Hyo-chu (2621/1321/3796), woman, aged 45, who lived at Pūgan-dong, near the Bank of Commerce and Industry, Kaesŏng.
 - e. YI Hŭi-tong (2621/3556/2639), aged 37, a native of Kaesŏng, who lived at the Tŏgyo Market, Kaesŏng.
 - f. IM Sŏng-kyu (2651/1840/1145), aged 43, a native of Kaesŏng, who carried on his business at the Tŏgyo Market in partnership with PAEK Chin-ha (4101/6966/3109), aged 43, also a native of Kaesŏng.
 - g. KIM Sŏng-chong (6855/2052/6945), aged 40, a native of Kaesŏng, who had a shop at the Tŏgyo Market, Kaesŏng.
 - h. CH'OE Ŭng-yong (1508/2019/6978), aged 40, a native of Kaesŏng, who opened a shop at the Tŏgyo Market, and had a close business relationship with the Chohŭng Kongsa.
 - i. KIM Tŏk-ki (6855/1795/1015), aged 40, a native of Kaesŏng, who had a shop at the Tŏgyo Market, Kaesŏng.
11. Articles shipped from Kaesŏng to South Korea were ginseng, silver, gold, medicine herbs, Korean silk, and furs. Articles shipped from South Korea via Kanghwa Island to Kaesŏng were rubber shoes, lighter flints, cosmetics, textiles, dyes, bicycle tires, medicines, and marine products.

Kaesŏng Consumers' Guild Organization Committee

- 25X1A12. Prior to [REDACTED] officers of the Kaesŏng Consumers' Guild Organization Committee were:
- a. Chairman: PAK Im-ho (2613/2651/5706), aged 40, a Korean Labor Party member, and a native of Hamgyŏng Province.
 - b. Deputy Chairman: YI Ki-ch'ang, aged 38, from Hwanghae Province.
 - c. Sales Section:
 - (1) Chief: CHU Chong-sŏp.
 - (2) There were three other employees in this section.
 - d. Fuel Stores:
 - (1) Chief: Formerly KO Pyŏng-hui (7559/3521/3556).
 - (2) There were two other employees in this section.

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- 5 -

- 25X1A 1. [REDACTED] Comment. In early 1953 the MSS was merged with the MIA. It is not known whether or not the separate office buildings were retained. 25X1A
- 25X1A [REDACTED] Comment. According to [REDACTED] the MSS was reorganized as the Department of Security under the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA). According to [REDACTED] KIM Il-song decided that this former ministry would be known as the Social Security Department of the MIA as of February 1953. 25X1A
- 25X1A 2. [REDACTED] Comment. These trading companies sold merchandise to independent merchants and in return for assisting these merchants in crossing into South Korea, received approximately 30 percent of the net profit realized from the sale of exchanged merchandise taken back to Kaesong and sold on the local market.
- 25X1A 3. [REDACTED] 25X1A
- 25X1A 4. [REDACTED] Comment. According to [REDACTED] the Singin Company was a cover company set up by the North Korean MSS in Sariwon with branches in Haeju and Kaesong. The company was managed by HONG Sun-o and was in charge of the coordination of the activities of all North Korean cover companies in Haeju and Kaesong which were smuggling or running intelligence operations in South Korea. 25X1A
- 25X1A [REDACTED] Comment. HONG Sun-o was chairman of the Kaesong Ginseng Growers and Traders Association. HONG was entrusted by ROK authorities to settle the ginseng business when ROK forces retreated southward in 1951. The HONG brothers invested in a 1,000 p'yong (1 p'yong equals 6' x 6') ginseng farm.
- 25X1A 5. [REDACTED] Comment. The P'yonghwa Sangsa obtained trucking permits for individual merchants on a commission basis, as such permits were issued only to companies.
- 25X1A 6. [REDACTED] Comment. KIM Myong-han was formerly the owner of the Songgyong (2646/0079) Rice Mill, largest in Kaesong. He was arrested in January 1953 on suspicion of anti-Communist activity in connection with the leaflet case.
- 25X1A 7. [REDACTED] Comment. [REDACTED] SON Ch'ang-sik lived in Yonan (N 37-54, E 125-10) (BS-5198). SON was a smuggler between North and South Korea prior to the war. 25X1A
- 25X1A 8. [REDACTED] Comment. This office was the former office of the Kaesong Branch of the Tonga (2639/0068) News.

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